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NRO/SATELLITE PROGRAM

14 June 1963

Scoville "Summary of NRO Activities"

get this
copy for appd.

NRO review(s) completed.

Major fields of activity in which the NRO actively involved during past 3 mos under Dr. McMillan, the new DNRO. Stresses items where major parties are CIA/DD/NRO&NRO.

Satellite Programming and Launching/

At time of McM take-over programming of sat recon for NRO woefully inadequate. Old systems being phased out before new systems proved adequate and back-up equipment made available. First priority under McM was provision of new schedule and back-up boosters, payloads, etc. Since these long-term items, no immediate effect within first 5 or 6 months. Drastic measures instituted to improve reliability. No friction or disagreement between CIA and NRO in this except reluctance on part of AF participants to face up to drastic corrective action needed.

Satellite Operations Center transferred to Pentagon from CIA. Scoville reluctantly agreed to this action after discussion with DCI. Seemed an unnecessary step since current ops center in CIA was functioning very well with facilities and support readily available.

R&D in progress at Dr. Charyk's direction--CIA instructed to cancel their contract. Not done until

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after McMillan took over from Charyk. Scoville protested but was overruled.

Air Recon Ops. Without consultation with CIA or DD/NRO, the NRO drafted a paper establishing the JRC as a part of the NRO with control over air operations. Upon my protest an addtl memo was prepared by the DNRO stating this wld not alter CIA's activities in this area. As DD/NRO I nevertheless recommended against this type of organization as being unground, but my views were not accepted by DNRO, another directive sent over similar to the original one. The DCI objected and took up matter with Gilpatrick who concurred with DCI's position and agreed to a much simpler organizational set up ~~without~~ which left CIA responsibility essentially unchanged.

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DD/NRO. In terms of reference prepared by Dr. Scoville, he recommended assignment of a fulltime assistant and development of methods for keeping DD/NRO fully informed and participating in all activities of NRO. Dr. McMillan and Col Martin vigorously opposed my having an assistant in the office and indicated that they would guarantee that I would be constantly briefed on the NRO activities and that I could be cut in on all of the major decision of the NRO in the same manner as the D/NRO himself. With misgivings, I reluctantly concurred to this.

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